



ALABAMA IRON & STEEL COUNCIL  
*Building Alabama*

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**STEIN, TOROK SELECTED TO HEAD ALABAMA IRON & STEEL COUNCIL**

Three Alabama manufacturing executives have been selected as organizational officers for the new Alabama Iron & Steel Council recently established by Gov. Bob Riley to promote expansion of the state's heavy metals industry.

Merle R. Stein, general manager of U.S. Steel's Fairfield Works was elected chairman, Ray Torok, president of U.S. Pipe & Foundry, vice chairman and Brian Tomlinson, comptroller of IPSCO Steel in Mobile as treasurer. Jim Bennett, commissioner of the Alabama Dept. of Labor, will serve as secretary.

"The Alabama iron and steel industry is not only one of our state's most historical industrial enterprises but each year grows in national scope and importance," said Gov. Riley. "This council was formed to make sure that Alabama continues to be the predominant force in a sector that literally drives the national economy."

With the addition of the new ThyssenKrupp plant in Mobile, the state is expected to move from fifth to second place nationally in the steel production. Although not directly related, the governor said growth in steel manufacturing in Alabama parallels the state's rapid rise in automobile production.

Mr. Stein said, "I am honored to serve as the first chairman of the Alabama Iron & Steel Council, formed to promote an industry that has played a major role in Alabama's rich manufacturing history, and will play an equally important role in its future. We have a great opportunity through this new public-private partnership to enhance our industry, our communities, opportunities for our employees, and the state's economic and job base."

During the council's recent organizational meeting in Birmingham, Stein charged the group to begin considering various issues facing the industry including logistics and transportation, economic development, workforce development and the environment.

The group meets again in Mobile September 9.



At Organizational Session, Ross Bridge Resort, Birmingham, May 20. Speaker is Chuck Hesse, administrator of the Ohio Steel Council.



New Steel Council Officers—From left, Jim Bennett (Alabama Labor Dept.), secretary; Merle Stein (Fairfield Works), chairman; Ray Torok (U.S. Pipe & Foundry), vice chairman; and Brian Tomlinson (IPSCO Steel), treasurer.

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